

IN THE SPECIFICATION

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

(A) from 5 to 80 parts by weight of a water-soluble polymer containing N-vinylformamide units and/or N-vinylacetamide units and having particle sizes of from 50 nm to 1-10  $\mu$ m and

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 37, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Suitable hydrolysis agents are preferably mineral acids, such as halogen halides, which may be used in gaseous form or as an aqueous solution. Concentrated hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid or phosphoric acid and organic acids, such as C1- to C5-carboxylic acids, and aliphatic or aromatic sulfonic acid are preferably used. For example, from 0.05 to 2, in particular from 1 to 1.5, molar equivalents of acid are required per equivalent of formyl groups in the polymers containing polymerized N-vinylformamide units. Hydrolysis of the N-vinylformamide units takes place significantly more rapidly than that of the polymers having N-vinylacetamide unite. If copolymers of the suitable vinylcarboxamides with other comonomers are subjected to the hydrolysis, the comonomer units contained in the copolymer can also be chemically modified. For example, vinyl alcohol units are formed from vinyl acetate units. In hydrolysis, acrylic acid units are formed from methyl acrylate units, and acrylamide or acrylic acid units are formed from acrylonitrile units. The hydrolysis of the N-vinylformamide units and/or vinylacetamide units of the polymers (A) can be carried out to an extent of from 5 to 100%, preferably from 10 to 40%. Although aqueous dispersions of water-soluble N-vinylcarboxamides dissolve on dilution with water, the dispersion is surprisingly not destroyed during hydrolysis. The particle diameter of the

hydrolyzed particles before and after the hydrolysis is from ~~50 nm to 2  $\mu$ m or preferably from~~  
~~50 nm to 2  $\mu$ m and in most cases from 100 to 700 nm 1 to 10  $\mu$ m.~~